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INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS
FEMALE BOMBER



The coffin of a victim of a suicide attack is taken on the roof of a vehicle from a hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. A female suicide bomber walking among Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad detonated an explosives belt on Monday, killing scores and wounding more than 100, officials said.
 Read more on Page A7

SPORTS NEWS
PRO BOWL MVP



Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub (8) holds up his MVP trophy after the NFL football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami. The AFC defeated the NFC 41-34.
 Read more on Page A12



The National Debt Clock is shown Monday, Feb. 1, 2010 in New York. President Barack Obama sent Congress a \$3.83 trillion budget on Monday that would pour more money into the fight against high unemployment, boost taxes on the wealthy and freeze spending for a wide swath of government programs. The deficit for this year would surge to a record-breaking \$1.56 trillion. The Debt Clock is a privately funded estimate of the national debt.
 Associated Press

Obama budget: Record spending, record deficit

By ANDREW TAYLOR
 Associated Press Writer
 WASHINGTON — Spelling out painful priorities, President Barack Obama urged Congress on Monday to quickly approve a huge new shot of spending for recession relief and job creation, part of a record \$3.8 trillion budget that would boost the deficit beyond any in the nation's history while only slowly beginning to put Americans back to work.

If Congress goes along with Obama's election-year plan, the nation would still end the year with unemployment pushing double digits at 9.8 percent and this year's pool of government red ink deepening to \$1.56 trillion — by the administration's accounting. The spending blueprint for next year calls for tax cuts for workers and business and more aid for cash-starved state governments as well

as the unemployed. The jobs initiative largely mirrors last year's stimulus bill, but is about one-third its size. The president is asking for nearly \$300 billion for recession relief and job stimulus. The budget paints a remarkably dire picture of a federal government that will have to borrow one-third of what it spends next year as it runs a deficit that still would total some \$1.3 trillion.

Continued on page 4



Haitian Prime-Minister Jean-Max Bellerive ponders a question during a news conference following a meeting discussing the future of Haiti, Monday, Jan. 25, 2010 in Montreal. Associated Press

Haiti says Baptists may be tried in U.S.

FRANK BAJAK
 Associated Press Writers
 MICHELLE FAUL
 Associated Press Writers
 PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's prime minister said Monday it's clear to him that the 10 U.S. Baptists who tried to take 33 children out of his quake-ravaged country without permission "knew what they were doing was wrong." But Prime Minister Max Bellerive also told The Associated Press his country is open to having the Americans go before courts in the United States because his own nation's judicial system was devastated by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Continued on page 9

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Obama seeks \$192B as war steps up in Afghanistan

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama wants \$192 billion in war spending for the next year-and-a-half, a hefty sum aimed at escalating the war in Afghanistan amid waning support in the U.S. The request reflects Obama's recent decision to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan to blunt a growing insurgency. Despite doubts among many Americans, including those in his own political party, Obama sees the decision as critical to bringing the war to a conclusion.

His plan calls for troops to start leaving Afghanistan in July 2011.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said success in Iraq and Afghanistan has "moved to the top" of the Pentagon's priority list.

"We now recognize that America's ability to deal

with threats for years to come will depend importantly on our success in the current conflicts," Gates told reporters on Monday.

The government has already shelled out a combined \$1 trillion since 2001 for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Obama's \$192 billion war budget rivals the \$245 billion request made in 2007 by President George W. Bush, after announcing that more than 20,000 combat troops would be sent to Baghdad. Congress was expected to endorse the budget plan even though several anti-war Democrats oppose the troop buildup and others are looking for ways to lessen the war's burden on the nation's deficit.

Some lawmakers have proposed a special "war tax" to cover the costs, while Republicans have suggested taking money from Obama's \$787 billion stimulus

package.

In a statement released Monday, the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a liberal anti-war Democrat from California, suggested savings could be found in the Pentagon's budget.

"Curbing military contractors' wasteful practices must be part of our efforts to restore accountability, transparency and fiscal discipline to the federal budget," she said.

Gates said the Defense Department has already scrubbed its spending plan for savings "in a sober and clear-eyed way."

The \$192 billion request includes \$33 billion to pay for the troop buildup this year. The remaining \$159 billion would pay for overseas military operations in the government's 2011 budget year, which begins Oct. 1.

Gates said much of the war money would be spent on



Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen hold a briefing at the Pentagon, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

Associated Pres

filling "persistent shortfalls" that have plagued ongoing operations.

Some \$9 billion would go toward buying more helicopters, while \$2 billion would be used to almost double — from 37 to 65 — the number of combat air patrols by sophisticated unmanned

aerial vehicles.

The money also would go to U.S. allies. Obama calls for \$2 billion for Pakistan to reimburse it for operations along its Afghan border, as well as \$13.6 billion to train and equip security forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.



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Gaps emerging in census outreach to immigrants

HOPE YEN, Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is fumbling some efforts to assure immigrants that U.S. census data will not be used against them, including gaps in outreach and foreign language guides that refer to the decennial count as an investigation.

With the launch of the head count weeks away, the Census Bureau's outreach has been falling short in at least a dozen major cities, such as Chicago, Dallas, New York and Seattle, according to a report released Monday by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Many of their states are on the cusp of gaining or losing U.S. House seats based on the census and face a redrawing of legislative boundaries that may tilt the balance of political power.

The report generally praises the Census Bureau for improved efforts since 2000. But noting the large ramifications of even a small undercount, the education fund is critical of the Obama administration. The legal group cited the government's refusal to give fuller assurances that census data would be kept confidential and to suspend large-scale immigration raids during the count — as was done in the 2000 census. AALDEF said it wasn't ruling out legal action to get stronger guarantees.

The census officially began last month in parts of rural Alaska. Most of the nation will receive their forms by mail the week of March 15.

"We have heard a lot of speeches by Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and the census director saying the census is confidential. But speeches and Web postings do not have the force of law," said Glenn Magpantay, an AALDEF program director, in a telephone interview. "Our concern is how much risk immigrants are putting themselves at."

Other groups agree more work needs to be done.

"We are running the risk of a real undercount," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of

Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. "The next few weeks will be critical."

The Census Bureau is printing instruction guides and sample forms in dozens of different languages for use in community help centers, since one in five residents speak a language other than English at home. But there have been errors due to poor translations, including material for Vietnamese speakers that describe the census as a "government investigation."

The agency was able to correct its Web material two weeks ago after groups pointed out the problem, but it's too late to fix the paper forms, according to the report. There are more than 1.1 million Vietnamese in the U.S., mostly clustered in California and Texas.

Other gaps included a lack of specialists for the Bangladeshi community in Detroit; the nation's third largest Korean-American population in Chicago; and the south Asian and Cambodian groups in Philadelphia and Rhode Island. In Virginia, when groups cited a need for census specialists for their Korean and Vietnamese communities, the agency responded by hiring someone who spoke Chinese.

Responding, the Census Bureau has emphasized it is devoting a large amount of its \$133 million ad campaign to racial and ethnic audiences, including television spots in 28 different languages. It also worked with more than 150,000 business and community groups, hoping to build trust in its message that filling out the 10-question census form is safe and easy to complete.

The Commerce Department, which oversees the Census Bureau, has made clear it will not ask the Homeland Security Department to hold off on large-scale raids as they successfully did in 2000. That



A truck arrives for the launch of the 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour in New York's Times Square, part of the largest civic outreach and awareness campaign in US history. The public will have the opportunity to learn about the 2010 Census from 13 road tour vehicles that will tour the country in advance of the mailing of census questionnaires on March 15-17. (AFP/Stam Honda)

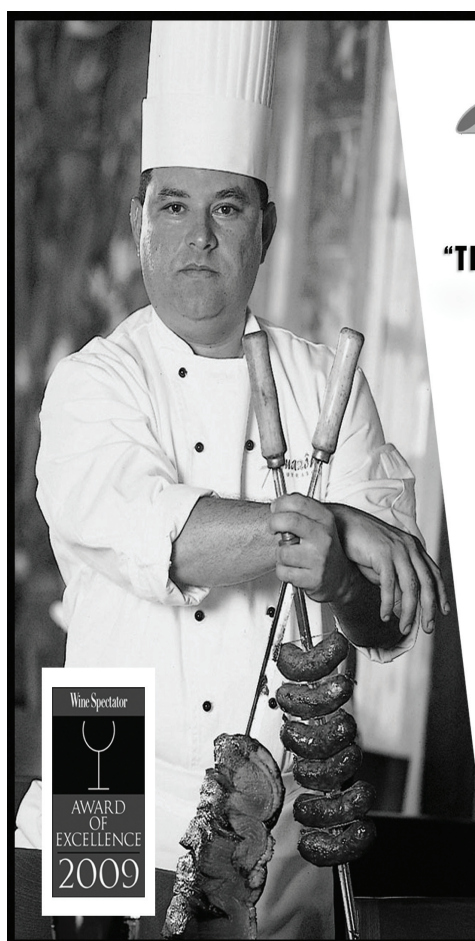
has drawn consternation from immigrant groups, particularly as it has become unlikely that Congress will take up immigration reform this year. To encourage participation, Census Director Robert Groves on Monday visited neighborhoods along the U.S.-Mexico border near Laredo, Texas. As many as half the residents were missed there in 2000 because they had little knowledge of English and

feared being turned over to immigration agents.

"The Census Bureau's outreach effort is unmatched in the history of the census, but we are never satisfied," said Commerce spokesman Nick Kimball. "We will continue to work with many different groups and stakeholders to improve on this unprecedented effort to make sure everyone knows their information is safe and secure, and to get an

accurate count."

The recent criticisms by AALDEF and other groups underscore the intense political pressure to have a tally free of the smallest margin of error. Even a 1 percent undercount means 3 million people are missed, typically minorities and poor people whose communities are then shortchanged in political representation and federal aid.



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Obama Budget

Continued from front page

At the same time, Obama is acutely aware that persistent joblessness is the issue most likely to spell political trouble for Democrats in this year's midterm elections — and perhaps for his own re-election chances in 2012.

The president's budget plan sees the deficit coming down by nearly \$300 billion next year, and he's offering more than \$1 trillion in deficit reduction proposals over the coming decade.

While proposing increases for immediate needs, he urged lawmakers to follow his lead and make cuts, even painful ones in programs dear to them. "I'm asking Republicans and Democrats alike to take a fresh look at programs they've supported in the past to see what's working and what's not, and trim back accordingly," he said.

"What I reject is the same old grandstanding when the cameras are on, and the same irresponsible budget policies when the cameras are off," the president said. "It's time to save what we can, spend what we must, and live within our means once again."

Republicans weren't impressed with the proposals.

"They're not willing to do big ideas. They're doing ideas that create perception but don't do anything big," said New Hampshire Sen. Judd Gregg, senior Republican on

the Budget Committee. "The spending freeze for example. You're talking what, \$10 billion on a \$1.6 trillion deficit?"

Democrats, facing the prospect of major losses in November, are likely to join Republicans in balking at many of Obama's proposals. Moderate Democrats already are wary of another debt-financed economic stimulus program and may also choke on many of the recommended tax increases and spending cuts.

Obama's proposal to cut payments to wealthier farmers, for example is probably dead on arrival and his renewed push to end purchases of new C-17 cargo planes for the military is sure to incite a battle with lawmakers from California, where the planes are assembled.

Proposing a partial spending freeze, tax increases for wealthier people and a new fee on banks, the president's proposal still amounts to just tinkering at the edges of the larger budget problem.

Obama's budget presents a delicate balance between trying to cement the fragile recovery and pivoting to curb deficits that are on the rise not only in dollar figures but also as a political issue that is causing Democrats to lose popularity with independent voters.

So while pledging to tackle deficits, he also said that continuing them in the short term is necessary to help lower unemployment. We will "do what it takes to create jobs," he said. "It's essential."

His budget proposed a job

creation tax credit of up to \$5,000 for each new worker that businesses hire, another round of one-time \$250 checks for senior citizen on Social Security and extended unemployment benefits and health insurance subsidies for the jobless. Obama also wants to extend a \$400 "Making Work Pay" tax credit for most workers through 2011.

While White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs spoke Sunday of a \$100 billion jobs initiative, these "temporary recovery measures" in fact total \$282 billion through the autumn of 2012, according to budget documents.

At the same time, Obama wants to hand off to a commission decisions on the tough steps needed to reduce deficits and slow the growth in the federal debt to levels economists deem prudent. The panel's recommendations wouldn't be due until after the midterm election.

Obama's proposal lays out a path to reduce annual deficits to about \$700 billion in four years, but ideas for tax increases or cuts in popular benefit programs like Medicare or Social Security to reduce them an additional \$200 million would have to come from the commission.

"We simply cannot continue to spend as if deficits don't have consequences, as if waste doesn't matter, as if the hard-earned tax dollars of the American people can be treated like Monopoly money, as if we can ignore this challenge for



Senate staff Sam Armocido piles copies of President Barack Obama's budget delivered to the Senate Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

another generation," Obama said.

Balancing the budget or producing surpluses of the kind from 1998 through 2001 is now seen as all but impossible. Instead, many policymakers are for a secondary goal of stabilizing the national debt in relation to the size of the economy. That generally requires keeping the deficit to 3 percent of gross domestic product. Just three years ago, the deficit stood at 1.2 percent of GDP. This year it's 10.6 percent.

Obama dropped his plan into a poisonous election-year atmosphere. Republicans in Congress immediately labeled it as a toxic mix of higher taxes, big spending and debt, saying

it would still produce deficits totaling \$8.5 trillion over the coming decade.

Obama inherited a difficult deficit situation when taking office amid a severe recession and financial crisis that made tax revenues plummet and caused unemployment benefits and food stamp costs to spike. "When I first walked through the door, the deficit stood at \$1.3 trillion," Obama said, citing the estimates that greeted him a year ago.

Still, Obama now mostly owns the deficit as a political issue after passing last year's \$862 billion economic stimulus bill and other major spending legislation that's earned mixed reviews with the public.

Obama would extend most of former President George W. Bush's tax cuts, as they apply to middle-income earners. Married couples making more than \$250,000 and individuals making more than \$200,00 would see their marginal tax rates rise to as much as 39.6 percent and also lose some of the benefits they take on itemized deductions like charitable gifts and mortgage interest.

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Terrorism suspect's father headed to NYC court

P. SOLOMON BANDA
TOM HAYS

Associated Press Writers
NEW YORK (AP) — The father of an airport driver accused of trying to cook up bombs made from beauty supplies for an attack on New York City was charged Monday with trying to get rid of chemicals and other evidence.

FBI agents arrested Mohammed Wali Zazi on Monday morning on the new charges at his home in a Denver suburb after a previous charge, lying to the government, was dropped. He had been out on bail.

A new indictment unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn accused Zazi of conspiring with others to destroy or hide “glasses, masks, liquid chemicals and containers” that were evidence in a foiled terrorism plot.

At a brief court appearance in

Denver on Monday, a judge ordered the transfer of Zazi — father of terrorism suspect Najibullah Zazi — to New York for a detention hearing on an unspecified date. He was to remain in federal custody until then.

The father, who is from Afghanistan, “seems to understand what he’s facing, and he intends ... to fight this case,” defense attorney Edward Harris told reporters outside court.

Prosecutors allege that Najibullah Zazi and others bought beauty supplies in the Denver area to make peroxide-based bombs and that he tried to mix the explosives in a hotel room there. Last year, he drove to New York, where investigators say they lifted notes on bomb-making from his computer.

Authorities have said they believe Zazi, who was arrested in September,

wanted to attack New York’s transit system — a terrorism case Attorney General Eric Holder called the most serious since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Two New Yorkers have also been charged but were not directly linked to the foiled bomb plot. Authorities have said the two — Adis Medunjanin and Zarein Ahmedzay — traveled to Pakistan, where Zazi allegedly received training in explosives from al-Qaida.

Ahmedzay, a 24-year-old cab driver, has pleaded not guilty to lying to the FBI during the probe about places he visited during the 2008 trip.

The three men, former high school classmates in New York, have denied any wrongdoing.

Officials confirmed reports last week that Zazi’s uncle had been arraigned on a felony count in secret — a sign that he could be cooperating.



In this Friday, Oct. 9, 2009 file photo, Mohammed Zazi arrives at the federal courthouse in Denver. A federal grand jury has charged Zazi with conspiring to destroy and concealed chemicals, glasses and masks in the criminal probe of his son Najibullah Zazi, who was charged in September with plotting to attack New York City with homemade bombs.

Associated Press

Blaze that killed 5 in NYC is ruled arson

COLLEEN LONG,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York detectives investigating a fire that killed five Guatemalan immigrants over the weekend declared the blaze an arson Monday and urged neighborhood witnesses to come forward, regardless of their legal status.

A man who escaped the building in the city’s Brooklyn borough hesitated coming forward because he feared he would be deported, officials said. Police detective Louis Yero said investigators were working with a pastor who is acting as a liaison between investigators and possible witnesses.

A motive remained unclear in the blaze, the city’s deadliest since a 2007 fire killed 10 people, nine of them children, in the Bronx. Saturday’s blaze is believed to have started near the front door.

Accidental fires don’t usually spark behind front doors, where there are few electrical sockets or other potential fire hazards, Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano said. Tests for accelerants were incomplete.

Four men and a woman, all Guatemalan immigrants, died Saturday. The victims’ residency status isn’t clear.

Luisa Chan, the only victim identified so far, and her husband, Miguel, who escaped, tried to lower their 2-month-old daughter, Maria, out of a window in a car seat, but the baby fell out and suffered a fractured skull. She remained in critical condition Monday but was expected to survive.

Their 2-year-old son, Josias, survived. Chan tearfully told reporters at a church service that his wife’s final words were to “take care of our son and daughter.”

Positive identification has not been made on the other victims.

Autopsy: Imam shot 20 times at FBI raid

ED WHITE

Associated Press Writer

DETROIT (AP) — A Muslim prayer leader accused of encouraging his followers to commit violence against the U.S. government was shot 20 times during an FBI raid at a suburban warehouse last year, according to an autopsy report released Monday.

The autopsy was completed a month after Luqman Ameen Abdullah’s death, but Dearborn police were granted a delay in releasing the results while they investigate the Oct. 28 shooting, said Dr. Carl Schmidt, Wayne County’s chief medical examiner.

Abdullah, 53, died instantly, he said. The FBI says agents were trying to arrest Abdullah at a Dearborn warehouse when he resisted and fired a gun.

Schmidt said Abdullah’s body was handcuffed and on the floor of a semitrailer when his investigator arrived at the shooting scene.

“You cannot tell by the gunshot wounds whether he was lying down, standing up, sitting” when he was shot, Schmidt told reporters. “It is impossible to say which one was the fatal gunshot wound. It was a combination of gunshot wounds.”

FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold said anyone subject to an arrest warrant is handcuffed “no matter what the circumstances” for the safety of agents and the public.

Abdullah, also known as Christopher Thomas, was the imam of a small mosque in Detroit that served mostly black Muslims. At the time, he and 11 allies were being pursued for federal crimes, chiefly conspiracy to sell stolen goods in an FBI sting operation.

The FBI says Abdullah was spreading a radical anti-government ideology that called for an Islamic state within the U.S. His family



denies it. There were no terror-related charges.

Dearborn police still are investigating Abdullah’s death. Earlier Monday, Chief Ron Haddad said it will take several more weeks before detectives finish their work and share their findings with the Michigan attorney general’s office.

“I’m not going to engage in opinions on the use of force,” Haddad said when asked if agents fired too many times. “Whether it clears them, whether they’re prosecuted, it’ll be up to the next level.”

New N. Ireland pact elusive, dashing premiers' hopes



Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown delivers a speech during the Opening Session of the Afghanistan Conference in London, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. Major world powers opened talks Thursday seeking an end to the grinding conflict in Afghanistan, drafting plans to hand over security responsibilities to local forces and quell the insurgency with an offer of jobs and housing to lure Taliban fighters to renounce violence.

Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Northern Ireland's major Protestant party has unexpectedly withheld support for a painstakingly negotiated deal with its Catholic partners to save their 2½-year-old

administration.

Monday's surprise setback upset plans by the British and Irish prime ministers, Gordon Brown and Brian Cowen, to travel to Northern Ireland to unveil what would have been a breakthrough in their efforts to sustain power-sharing, the

central goal of the territory's 1998 peace accord.

All sides said a successful conclusion remained possible Tuesday.

Both premiers had expected the Democratic Unionists, who represent the British Protestant majority, to accept

a compromise plan crafted over the past week of day-and-night negotiations. Cowen canceled an official trip to Spain, while Brown's foreign minister erroneously told lawmakers in London that the British leader was already in Northern Ireland.

But a meeting of Democratic Unionist lawmakers called to confirm the deal dragged on in secrecy until the evening. It ended with a tired-eyed party leader, Peter Robinson, declaring that another long night of talks with British officials and Sinn Fein, the Irish Catholic party, lay ahead.

Robinson said his party's lawmakers had pored over the proposed settlement and identified "issues that have to be resolved, and items about which they need to be satisfied." He declined to specify what they were.

The Democratic Unionist chief pledged to spend Monday night negotiating "with all due diligence and expedition." Last week's negotiations typically ran past 3 a.m. each night.

Sinn Fein — which triggered the crisis by threatening to withdraw from the coalition, forcing its collapse and new Northern Ireland elections — said it broadly supported the plans as they stood and remained hopeful of sealing a deal Tuesday.

Sinn Fein likewise declined to specify the points in dispute.

"We are confident we can make the deal," said Gerry Kelly, a convicted Irish Republican Army car bomber who today is Sinn Fein's justice spokesman. "Until we do conclude that agreement, then there's no point talking about the detail of that agreement."

The impasse centers on a long-delayed plan to transfer government responsibility for Northern Ireland's police and justice system from Britain to local hands.

The Democratic Unionists have repeatedly blocked the move. They most recently have made it conditional on winning concessions on the right of Protestant groups to resume marching near hostile

Catholic districts — even though the last time this was permitted in the mid-1990s, widespread rioting was the result.

Britain, Ireland and the U.S. all support Sinn Fein's demand to transfer control of law enforcement, criminal justice standards and the courts system from London to Belfast. They say this would demonstrate the community's newfound unity following decades of division and violence that left 3,700 dead.

The past week of diplomacy has illustrated instead how much still divides Northern Ireland. The Democratic Unionists want the abolition of a British-appointed Parades Commission that has severely restricted Protestant parades over the past decade. Sinn Fein rejects this demand as a recipe for disaster.

Under terms of the proposed deal, Britain would transfer justice responsibilities from London to Belfast in early May. That meets Sinn Fein's key demand for a fixed deadline.

The new Justice Department in Northern Ireland would be run by a neutral third-party figure, not a Democratic Unionist or Sinn Fein official. Many Protestants are opposed to giving Sinn Fein any role in overseeing law and order, citing the party's links to the Irish Republican Army. The IRA killed nearly 1,800 people — including judges, court witnesses and 300 police officers — during its failed 1970-1997 campaign to force Northern Ireland out of the United Kingdom.

Power-sharing has suffered repeated breakdowns amid conflicts between Protestant leaders and Sinn Fein over the fate of the outlawed IRA.

The most recent coalition gained office in 2007 after the IRA disarmed and Sinn Fein accepted the authority of Northern Ireland's police force. Sinn Fein expected the fledgling Northern Ireland coalition to receive justice powers as part of the deal, and Britain and Ireland had specified they wanted it to happen by mid-2008.

Pirates free Greek ship, mostly Filipino crew

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Somali pirates freed a Greek-owned cargo ship Monday and its 22-member crew held since November after receiving a ransom payment, officials in Greece said.

A coast guard statement said the Filitsa was heading for the Kenyan port of Mombasa along with its crew — three Greeks, 18 Filipinos and a Romanian. Officials said the crew members were all in good health.

The ship's owner, Order Shipping, confirmed that a ransom had been paid but refused to declare the sum.

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was seized Nov. 11 in the Gulf of Aden, while carrying a cargo of fertilizer from Kuwait to the harbor of Durban in South Africa.

Pirates can often command multimillion dollar ransoms for the release of the vessels they capture, a fortune in impoverished Somalia. The failed state has not had a functioning government for a generation.

Despite patrols by a multinational naval

force off Somalian waters, Somali pirates seized 47 vessels last year, and are holding about 200 crew members hostage.

Piracy experts said last week that most of the hijacked ships had ignored safety precautions, and at least a quarter of commercial ships navigating the dangerous Gulf of Aden continue to do so.

Self-protective measures, ranging from increased lookouts to zigzag maneuvers to the use of razor wire and fire pumps, have helped stave off several attacks.

The pirates usually seize the ships or the crews without harming them, and readily release them after ransom is paid.

But last month, two rival gangs fought over a reported \$5.5 million payment to free a Greek-owned oil tanker. The pirates on the crude-laden Maran Centaurus called international forces for help, and two helicopters chased away the attackers who were seeking a cut of the ransom. The crew members were unharmed.

Female suicide bomber in Iraq kills 54, injures scores

BRIAN MURPHY
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A female suicide bomber detonated her explosives inside a way station for Shiite pilgrims Monday, killing 54 people and rattling security officials who are struggling against a possible rise in violence before key elections next month.

The attack was the third major strike by suspected Sunni insurgents in a week and left Baghdad's top security official acknowledging that extremists are adopting new methods to outwit bomb-detection squads such as stashing explosives deep inside the engines and frames of vehicles.

A similar warning about new tactics came last week from the chief U.S. military commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, after a two-day wave of suicide car bombers struck three hotels in Baghdad and the city's main crime lab, killing at least 63 people.

U.S. and Iraqi officials are deeply concerned that insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq could step up violence before March 7 parliamentary elections, which are seen as a critical step in reconciliation between the majority Shiites and the Sunnis who lost control with the toppling of Saddam Hussein. The latest attack was another blow — but not entirely unexpected.

Shiite pilgrims are easy targets for bombers who can mingle with the crowds streaming on roads to shrines and other sites. The current pilgrimage is one of the largest.

Hundreds of thousands of people are walking this week toward Karbala in southern Iraq before the culmination of religious events Friday — marking the end of 40 days of mourning following the anniversary of the death Imam Hussein, a revered Shiite figure.

Iraqi security forces have promised to protect the pilgrims with expanded patrols and checkpoints. But Monday's bombing shows the huge challenges of trying to find a single attacker among the throng.

The bomber hid the explosives beneath an abaya — a woman's

black cloak worn from head to toe — as she joined a group of pilgrims on the outskirts of Baghdad's Shiite-dominated neighborhood of Shaab, said Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, Baghdad's top military spokesman.

The bomber set off the blast — described as a huge fireball — as she lined up with other women to be searched by female security guards at a checkpoint just inside a rest tent serving sherbet and tea.

People were "on the ground, covered in blood and crying for help. Banners were all over the ground and covered in blood," said witness Raheem Kadhom, 35.

The blast was so powerful it blew some people out of their slippers and shoes, which were scattered across the ground, he said. Many of the wounded were loaded into cars instead of waiting for ambulances.

A police official said 54 people, including 18 women and 12 children, were killed and 117 were wounded. A hospital official confirmed the casualties. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Despite an overall decline in violence in Iraq, al-Qaida and other Sunni extremists have continued to strike Shiite civilians as they have since the insurgency took root in 2004. Pilgrims are a frequent target to try to stoke sectarian strife and weaken the Shiite-dominated government.

During a Shiite pilgrimage in February 2009, a female suicide bomber attacked a tent filled with women and children resting during the walk to Karbala, killing 40 people and wounding 60 others. A month before that, a suicide bomber dressed in women's clothing and hiding among Iranian pilgrims killed more than three dozen people outside a mosque in Baghdad's Shiite neighborhood of Kazimiyah.

The election campaign does not officially begin until next week, but there is already apprehension that insurgents could shift their attacks to campaign rallies and other events appealing for a large turnout. Iraqi state TV has started

running spots to encourage voters with themes of patriotism and fighting violence.

Security forces were put on alert shortly after Monday's attack, al-Moussawi said.

"We informed all checkpoints to be careful and to intensify the search procedures," he said.

Iraqi authorities do not have enough policewomen to conduct searches of female travelers at most checkpoints, and security forces have been reluctant to use bomb-sniffing dogs because of cultural sensitivities.

Al-Moussawi warned that insurgent groups were using new tactics to smuggle explosives past security forces.

"Terrorist groups have come up with ways to hide explosive substances that cannot be detected with bomb detector sets," he said in a statement posted on his Web site.

Iraq's forces have been using a bomb-detection device at checkpoints across the country that Britain banned for export after questions were raised about whether it works. Iraqi security officials have defended the device, though they began their own investigation after the U.S. military also said the unit was ineffective.

Baghdad's military command, meanwhile, has referred 134 members of Iraq's security forces for investigation. They are suspected of negligence for the security lapses in the bombings last week, al-Moussawi said.

Iraq's monthlong election campaign officially begins next week, raising worries of more attacks to try to disrupt the process and embarrass the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill told The Associated Press on Monday that the elections need to be widely accepted as fair otherwise protests by the losers may bog down the formation of a new government and open the door to wider unrest.

"We clearly need an election process whose outcome the Iraqi people accept," Hill said in an interview. "We don't want a situation where some people, or some groups of people, do not accept the outcome. Because then you have a substantial percentage of people who do



Shiite pilgrims are seen with a banner depicting Imam Hussein as faithful gather for Arbacen, which marks the end of the forty-day mourning period after the anniversary of the 7th century martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, in Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

not accept the outcome that can make the security situation problematic."

But Hill believes that a fierce controversy over a ballot purge of candidates who are suspected Saddam loyalists will likely be resolved before the vote. An estimated 450 candidates have been barred from the ballot for suspected links to Saddam's now outlawed Baath Party.

In northern Iraq, gunshots were fired at the motorcade of the Ninevah provincial governor, Atheel al-Nujaifi, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of

Mosul, said a security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media.

The governor was not injured, but some of the vehicles in the convoy were damaged, the officials said.

The shots occurred while al-Nujaifi was visiting a dam and was met by Kurdish protesters waving flags and banners from their nearby northern enclave.

Al-Nujaifi is considered a strong opponent of Kurdish efforts expand their influence into the Mosul area.

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Official: Germany's Jesuits did not stem sex abuse



Stefan Dartmann, Chairman of the Jesuit in Germany, Klaus Mertes, principal of the Canisius-Kolleg, and Gabriele Huedepohl, from left, participate in a press conference in Berlin, Germany, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010.

Associated Press

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press Writer
BERLIN (AP) — Germany's top Jesuit apologized Monday for serial sexual abuse apparently committed by two priests at one of the country's most prestigious high schools, saying there was evidence of it for years but Jesuit officials did not "react the way it would have

been necessary."

At least 20 students were sexually abused by the two priests at Berlin's private Catholic Canisius Kolleg in the 1970s and 1980s, the school's director Father Klaus Mertes said at a joint press conference with Father Stefan Dartmann, the head of the Jesuit order of Germany, on Monday evening at

Canisius Kolleg.

That is much higher than the initial seven sexual abuse cases attributed to the two priests, Fathers Peter Riedel and Wolfgang Stab, that Mertes had reported last month.

"I am ashamed that nothing was done at the time," Dartmann said at the news conference. "I also apologize that those responsible at the order at the time did not ... react the way it would have been necessary."

Dartmann conceded that the Jesuit order of Germany had had evidence of the sexual abuse cases since 1981, but had never informed parents, students or authorities. Such cases can no longer be prosecuted in Germany because of its statute of limitations, he said.

Dartmann also said the two priests continued to sexually abuse boys and girls after being transferred from Canisius Kolleg to other Catholic schools and youth institutions in Germany, Mexico, Chile and Spain.

Three former students at a Jesuit school in Hamburg also accused one of the priests of abuse, several papers reported Monday night, and another Catholic school in the Black Forest is reportedly investigating if students there were also victims of abuse by the priests.

Canisius Kolleg is one of Germany's pre-eminent schools, the alma mater of many politicians, businesspeople and scientists. The scandal has become big news because Germany has not seen the major sexual abuse scandals involving the Roman Catholic church that the United States and Ireland have.

Mertes said Monday that after he sent 500 letters to alumni of the school last month, more students reported suffering sexual abuse by Riedel and Stab, who taught at the school in the 1970s and 1980s. Mertes had reported the first seven abuse cases last week.

Riedel forced his students

to masturbate and Stab exercised "excessive corporal rituals" in a sexual context, said Dartmann.

Both men later left the order and Stab has admitted the abuse. He now lives in Chile and sent a letter last month to some of the victims to apologize.

Riedel was attacked by one of his former victims in 1986, who then killed himself, the Berliner Morgenpost newspaper said. Riedel has not admitted the abuse.

All the victims at Canisius school in Berlin were male and most were about 13 when the abuse began, Mertes said. They are around 40 now. Some of the later victims also include girls, according to Dartmann.

The Jesuit order has assigned an independent counselor for sexual abuse victims to investigate all allegations and present a report on the findings in two weeks.

Canisius Kolleg was founded as an all-boys school and turned coed in the late 1970s.

Shooting near Freeport mine in Indonesia wounds seven

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Gunmen attacked a convoy near the world's largest gold mine in Papua on Sunday, wounding at least seven people including a foreigner, Indonesian police said, the latest in a string of attacks on the U.S.-owned mine.

The convoy of two buses and four other vehicles of the mine operator Freeport were ambushed Sunday morning as they traveled from the Grasberg mine to Kuala Kencana neighborhood in Timika town, said Papua police spokesman Col. Agus Rianto.

He said those wounded included an American, four policemen and two civilians — a worker and a girl.

Freeport said in an e-mail statement from its Jakarta office that nine people were hurt in the ambush and three required hospitalization but did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The other six were discharged after treatment of minor injuries.

It said the incident did not affect operations at the mine.

The company declined to comment on whether an American was among those wounded.

Rianto said the American, whose left eye was hit by shrapnel, and two policemen were flown to the capital Jakarta for treatment.

"Police and soldiers are hunting down the perpetrators who attacked the convey from both sides of the road," the police chief said.

The attack was the latest in a string of ambushes on the road linking the mine with Timika that have claimed eight lives since July 2009, including an Australian technician.

The mine, run by a subsidiary of the Phoenix, Ariz.-based Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc, has been repeatedly targeted with arson, roadside bombs and blockades since



A security guard mans the check point at the entrance of Freeport mining complex in Timika, Papua province, Indonesia, Monday, Jan. 25, 2010. Gunmen attacked a convoy near the world's largest gold mine in Papua on Sunday, wounding at least seven people including a foreigner, Indonesian police said, the latest in a string of attacks on the U.S.-owned mine.

Associated Press

production began in the impoverished province of Papua in the 1970s.

The region is also scene of a low-level insurgency seeking independence from the Indonesian government.



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Haiti - Baptists

Continued from front page

The aborted Baptist “rescue mission” has become a distraction for a crippled government trying to provide basic life support to millions of earthquake survivors. But the prime minister said some legal system needs to determine whether the Americans were acting in good faith — as they claim — or are child traffickers in a nation that has struggled to fight exploitation of children.

“It is clear now that they were trying to cross the border without papers. It is clear now that some of the children have live parents,” he told the AP.

“And it is clear now that they knew what they were doing was wrong.”

If they were acting in good faith, “perhaps the courts will try to be more lenient with them,” he said.

Members of the church group, most from Idaho, have insisted they only trying to rescue child victims of the quake. Few if any had any significant experience in international charity.

Since their arrest Friday near the border, the church group has been held inside two small concrete rooms in the same judicial police headquarters building where ministers have makeshift offices and give disaster response briefings. They have not yet been charged.

One of their lawyers said they were being treated poorly: “There is no air conditioning, no electricity. It is very disturbing,”

Attorney Jorge Puella told the AP by phone from the Dominican Republic, where the Baptists hoped to shelter the children in a rented beach hotel.

One of the Americans, Charisa Coulter of Boise, Idaho, was being treated Monday at the University of Miami’s field hospital near the capital’s international airport. Looking pale and speaking with difficulty from a green Army cot, the 24-year-old Coulter said she had either severe dehydration or the flu. A diabetic, she initially thought her insulin had gone bad in the heat.

Two Haitian police officers stood besides the cot, guarding her.

“They’re treating me pretty good,” she said, adding that Haitian police didn’t bring her group any food or water, but that U.S. officials have delivered water and MREs to eat. “I’m not concerned. I’m pretty confident that it will all work out,” she said.

Investigators have been trying to determine how the Americans got the children, and whether any of the traffickers that have plagued the impoverished country were involved.

Their detained spokeswoman, Laura Silsby, conceded that she had not obtained the proper Haitian documents, but told the AP from detention that the group was “just trying to do the right thing” amid the chaos.

The 33 kids, ranging in age from 2 months to 12 years and with their names written in tape on their shirts, were being sheltered in a temporary children’s home,

where some told aid workers that they have surviving parents. Lassegue said the Social Affairs Ministry was trying to find them.

“One (9-year-old) girl was crying, and saying, ‘I am not an orphan. I still have my parents.’ And she thought she was going on a summer camp or a boarding school or something like that,” said George Willeit, a spokesman for the SOS Children’s Village.

Foreigners adopting children from the developing world have grabbed headlines recently — Madonna tried to adopt a girl from Malawi amid criticism from locals, while Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have a burgeoning multicultural brood.

But in Haiti, a long tradition of foreign military intervention coupled with the earthquake that destroyed much of the capital and plunged it even deeper into poverty, have made this issue even more emotionally charged. Of 20 Haitian parents interviewed in a tent camp by the AP on Sunday, only one said she would not give up her children to give them a chance at a better life.

“Some parents I know have already given their children to foreigners,” said Adonis Helman, 44. “I’ve been thinking how I will choose which one I may give.”

“My parents died in the earthquake. My husband has gone. Giving up one of my kids would at least give them a chance,” said Saintanne Petit-Frere, 40, a mother of six. “My only fear is that they would forget me, but that wouldn’t affect my



Two Haitian police officers sit next to Charisa Coulter, 24, of Boise, Idaho, one of the 10 Americans who were arrested while trying to bus children out of Haiti without proper documents or government permission, as she rests on a cot at the University of Miami’s field hospital, near Port-au-Prince’s international airport, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. Coulter, who’s diabetic, initially thought her insulin had gone bad in the heat but now she’s being treated for what she said is either severe dehydration or the flu.

Associated Press

decision.”

Haiti’s overwhelmed government has halted all adoptions unless they were in motion before the earthquake amid fears that parentless or lost children are more vulnerable than ever to being seized and sold. Sex trafficking has been rampant in Haiti. Prime Minister Max Bellerive’s personal authorization is now required for the departure of any child.

“For UNICEF, what is important is that for children separated from their parents, we do everything possible to have their families traced and to reunite them,” said

Kent Page, a spokesman for the group in Haiti. “They have to be protected from traffickers or people who wish to exploit these children.”

The arrested Americans include members of the Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, and the East Side Baptist Church in Twin Falls, Idaho. The churches are part of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is America’s largest Protestant denomination and has extensive humanitarian programs worldwide, but they decided to mount their own “rescue mission” following the earthquake.

Stars gather to cover 'We Are the World' for Haiti

By SOLVEJ SCHOU,
For The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Twenty-five years after star-studded anthem "We Are the World" raised millions of dollars to aid famine relief in Africa, celebrities of a different generation were set to gather Monday night to re-record the charity tune to benefit Haiti.

Among those scheduled to perform on the revamped track the night after the Grammy Awards were Akon, Jason Mraz, Bono, Wyclef Jean, Carlos Santana, Enrique Iglesias, Usher, Toni Braxton and Lady Gaga. The session will be held at the same recording studio where the original was cut — the historic A&M complex in Hollywood.

Quincy Jones, who produced the 1985 anthem, announced last week that he planned to redo the song to benefit recovery from the deadly Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti.

The session was all the talk at Sunday night's Grammy festivities. Music producer RedOne

said being asked to participate was "the biggest honor a musician can ever do."

"Having Quincy, our father of music ... and Lionel Richie asking me to contribute and help, I said of course, because this is not about me," he said. "It's about Haiti."

Written by Michael Jackson and Richie, the original "We Are the World" thundered up the charts when it was released on the radio and in record stores in March 1985.

An unprecedented number of top pop musicians gathered at A&M the night of Jan. 28, 1985, following the American Music Awards, to record the tune. The song featured 45 American superstars, including Jackson, Richie, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner, Ray Charles, Bruce Springsteen, Diana Ross, Bob Dylan and Cyndi Lauper.

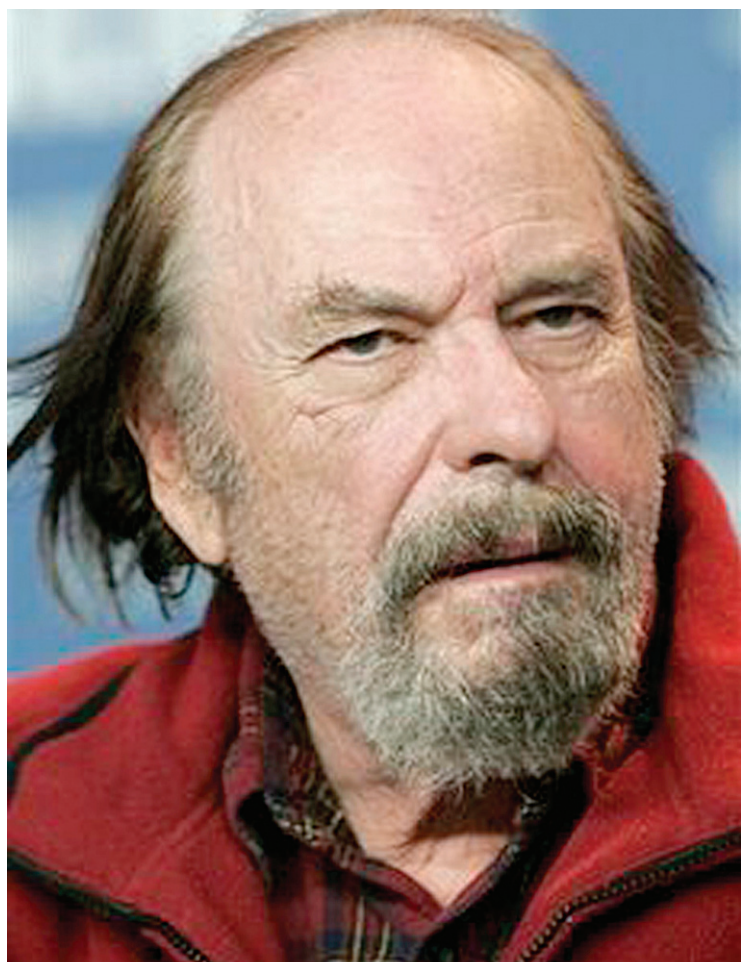
The record raised more than \$30 million for USA for Africa, a nonprofit organization founded by the singers to fund hunger relief in African nations.



FILE - In this June 19, 2009 file photo, multi-Grammy winning musician Quincy Jones attends an event at Fudan University in Shanghai, China.

(AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko, File)

Attorney: Rip Torn heading to rehab after arrest



FILE - In this Feb. 11, 2009 file photo, actor Rip Torn speaks during a news conference for the movie 'Happy Tears' at the Berlinale in Berlin, Germany. Actor Elmore 'Rip' Torn has been arrested for breaking into a Salisbury, Conn. bank and carrying a firearm while intoxicated.

(AP Photo/Hermann J. Knippertz, File)

By STEPHANIE REITZ,
Associated Press Writer
LITCHFIELD, Conn. — Rip Torn was so intoxicated when he broke into a Connecticut bank carrying a loaded gun that he thought he was home, taking off his hat and boots and leaving them by the door, according to court records.

The 78-year-old actor was wearing the same battered boots Monday when he was arraigned on several charges after spending the weekend in a police holding cell near his hometown of Salisbury, in northwestern Connecticut.

Torn, who did not enter a plea, was released on \$100,000 bond a few hours later and waded through a phalanx of media to a friend's waiting vehicle. He smiled and wished onlookers a nice day but did not answer questions about the arrest.

He is expected to enter an alcohol rehabilitation center in New York as early as Tuesday, according to his attorney.

Torn was given probation last year in a Connecticut drunken driving case and allowed to

enter an alcohol education program. He completed the first stage of that program. He also has two previous drunken driving arrests in New York.

"The history here is clear that there's an alcohol issue that needs to be addressed," his attorney, A. Thomas Waterfall, told Bantam Superior Court Judge John W. Pickard on Monday.

The "Men in Black" actor is accused of breaking into the Litchfield Bancorp branch through a window Friday night in Salisbury, where officers responding to an alarm found him wandering in the lobby and nearly incoherent.

According to court records, Torn was disoriented, reeked of alcohol and asked the state police troopers repeatedly why they were taking him out of his home.

"Obviously, he wasn't there intending to commit a crime, in my estimation," Waterfall said.

Officers found a loaded .22-

caliber revolver in Torn's pocket, according to court records, and a breath test showed his blood-alcohol content as 0.203 percent — more than twice the 0.08 legal limit for driving in Connecticut.

Torn is charged with criminal trespass, carrying a gun without a permit, carrying a gun while intoxicated, burglary and criminal mischief. His case was transferred to a court in Litchfield that handles more serious cases because of the weapons charges.

He remembers nothing of that night, Waterfall said Monday after the arraignment.

"He's a very nice person, a very friendly individual. Obviously this is a serious event, so we will deal with it as we go on," Waterfall said.

Torn never brandished the weapon when the officers confronted him, according to Waterfall and the court records, and has no history of violence. His permit to carry a firearm in Connecticut had expired in October 2007.



Obama unveils 2011 budget with \$3.83T in spending

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama unveiled a multitrillion-dollar spending plan Monday, pledging an intensified effort to combat high unemployment and asking Congress to quickly approve new job-creation efforts that would boost the deficit to a record-breaking \$1.56 trillion.

Obama's new budget blueprint preaches the need to make tough choices to restrain run-away deficits, but not before attacking what the administration sees as the more immediate challenge of lifting the country out of a deep recession that has cost 7.2 million jobs over the past two years.

The result is a budget plan that would give the country trillion-dollar-plus deficits for three consecutive years. Obama's new budget projects a spending increase of 5.7 percent for the current budget year and forecasts that spending would rise another 3 percent in 2011 to \$3.83 trillion.

"Until America is back at work, my administration will not rest and this recovery will not be finished," Obama declared in his budget message.

Addressing the fact that his budget first projects big increases in the deficit before starting to lower these imbalances, Obama told reporters, "It's very important to understand, we won't be able to bring down this deficit overnight given that the recovery is still taking hold and families across the country still need help."

Obama's budget offers tax cuts for businesses, including a \$5,000 tax credit for hiring new workers this year, help for the unemployed and \$25 billion more for cash-strapped

state governments. All the temporary measures would boost the deficit over the next two years by \$245 billion.

The deficit for this year would surge to a record-breaking \$1.56 trillion, topping last year's then-unprecedented \$1.41 trillion gap, a number which had dwarfed the previous record of \$454.8 billion set in 2008 under former President George W. Bush.

The administration is forecasting that deficits over the next decade will add an additional \$8.5 trillion to the national debt, even if Congress adopts the administration's package of proposals to trim future deficits starting in 2011. Those include a three-year freeze on spending for government programs, an effort which does not touch popular benefit programs such as Social Security and Medicare and which also exempts defense and homeland security. It also proposes a boost in taxes on the wealthiest Americans, families making more than \$250,000 annually, by allowing the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 to expire.

Republicans were not impressed with Obama's deficit cutting, saying that it fell far short of the bold steps needed in light of the fiscal challenges the country is facing.

"This country is sinking into a fiscal quagmire," said Sen. Judd Gregg, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee. "These circumstances call for a bold, game-changing budget that will turn things around."

The administration argued that Obama inherited a deficit that was already topping \$1 trillion when he took office and, given the severity of the downturn, the president had to spend billions stabilizing the

financial system and jump-starting economic growth.

Obama's new budget carries forward the pledge he made in his State of the Union address: To put full attention on reviving the moribund U.S. economy, an effort to convince recession-battered voters that Democrats are in tune with the issues that affect their lives. Obama's new budget assumes enactment of a comprehensive health care program, the issue that dominated the president's first year in office. Passage of that proposal is currently

stalled with Democrats trying to figure out how to cope with the loss of a key Democratic seat that gave them the 60 votes they needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

Obama's job proposals would push government spending in 2010 to \$3.72 trillion and increase that amount to \$3.83 trillion in the 2011 budget year, which begins on Oct. 1. The deficit in 2011 would total \$1.27 trillion, the third straight trillion-dollar-plus imbalance. The deficit would fall to \$828

billion in 2012 but would remain at levels surpassing any previous deficits through 2020.

The deficit for this year would be 10.6 percent of the total economy, a figure unmatched since the country was emerging from World War II. The administration does not trim the deficit below 3.6 percent of GDP for any year in the next decade, failing to meet its goal of lowering the deficit to 3 percent of GDP by 2015.



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Schaub helps AFC beat NFC 41-34 in Pro Bowl

By STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI – In its new role as a warmup to the Super Bowl, the Pro Bowl became a series of wind sprints.

Long gains were the rule and hard hitting was the exception as the AFC beat the NFC 41-34 on Sunday night.

Light showers fell for much of the game, stirring memories of a rainy Super Bowl in Miami three years ago. But uniforms remained mostly spotless, with more pushing and shoving than tackling.

“It’s different. It was like 7 on 7,” NFC linebacker Brian Orakpo said. “Everybody came out here trying not to get hurt and give the fans a good show”



Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub (8) throws a pass during the NFL football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami. Schaub was named the game’s Most Valuable Player. Associated Press

Matt Schaub of the Houston Texans threw for 189 yards and two AFC scores, and was chosen the most valuable player.

“It’s a game you watch growing up as a kid and wonder if you could ever be in,” Schaub said. “To actually be a part of it is incredible.”

Aaron Rodgers also threw two touchdown passes, and NFC teammate DeSean Jackson had two scoring catches.

From the standpoint of ticket sales, this year’s new venue and slot on the league calendar was a success. The crowd of 70,697 was the largest for a Pro Bowl since 1959 in Los Angeles.

Continued on page 14

McCarron refuses to back down

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ping chairman John Solheim reminded the PGA Tour on Monday that it cannot make a separate rule to ban Ping Eye2 wedges, the 20-year-old clubs that led Scott McCarron to claim Phil Mickelson is “cheating” by using them.

Hours after McCarron said he would “not be silenced” over the grooves controversy, the PGA Tour’s situation became a little more muddled with Solheim’s gentle reminder.

Mickelson was among at least four players at Torrey Pines who used the Ping wedges, which have square grooves.

The USGA has a new regulation this year that shrinks the volume and softens the edges of the grooves. However, the Ping wedges made before April 1, 1990, are approved for competition because of a 1990 settlement from Ping’s lawsuit against the USGA.

The PGA Tour said in a statement over the weekend that it would monitor the situation, noting it could adopt a “local rule” for tournaments

that would ban the Ping wedges.

Solheim, however, said under the 1993 agreement with the PGA Tour, the tour could not adopt a separate rule if it differed from the USGA.

“The recent statement from the PGA Tour and several PGA Tour players that they could invoked a ‘local rule’ required us to remind the PGA Tour of the terms of the agreement,” Solheim said in a statement.

Then, the chairman and CEO of Ping appeared to leave room for a compromise.

“While I fully expect the PGA Tour to honor this agreement, I’m willing to discuss a workable solution to this matter that would benefit the game and respect the role innovation has played over the long history of golf,” Solheim said.

Solheim is the son of Ping founder Karsten Solheim, one of golf’s foremost innovators who spent millions battling the USGA and PGA Tour over the square grooves in its popular Ping Eye2 model.

PGA Tour spokesman Ty Votaw declined comment, noting commissioner Tim Finchem would have a press conference Tuesday in Los Angeles after a players

meeting.

McCarron and Mickelson, meanwhile, struck no conciliatory tones.

McCarron, who has won three times in his 16-year career, issued a statement Monday in which he wanted to clarify that while he believes “it’s cheating” for Mickelson or anyone else to use the Ping wedges, “I never called Phil Mickelson a cheater.”

“That being said, I want my fans, sponsors and most importantly, my fellow players, to know that I will not be silenced and I will continue my efforts to get the groove issue resolved,” McCarron said.

Mickelson, the world’s No. 2 player, had said over the weekend he felt “publicly slandered” and hinted at legal action if the PGA Tour does not discipline McCarron for his choice of words.

“Again, everybody has their opinions and so forth, and it’s healthy to talk about it,” Mickelson said Saturday. “But when you cross that line and slander someone publicly, that’s when the tour needs to step in — or someone else.”

John Daly and Dean Wilson were



In this Feb. 20, 2009, file photo, Scott McCarron watches his birdie chip to the ninth green narrowly miss in the second round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles. McCarron accused Phil Mickelson of “cheating” for using wedges that are allowed under a legal technicality. Associated Press

the first players to use the Ping wedges this year, at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Others who have had the Ping wedge in play include Hunter Mahan, whose caddie found a copper wedge with square grooves.

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Self-made: Jayhawks back at No. 1 in AP poll

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

After three weeks of not being No. 1, Kansas moved back to the top of The Associated Press' college basketball poll. The Jayhawks (20-1) were No. 1 in the preseason Top 25 and for the first eight weeks of the regular season. They moved back into the top spot Monday, receiving 54 first-place votes from the 65-member national media panel.

The other three Division I teams with just one loss — Villanova, Syracuse and Kentucky — were second through fourth.

Villanova and Syracuse both moved up one place to second and third. The Wildcats (19-1) received four first-place votes while the Orange (21-1) got six.

Kentucky was a unanimous No. 1 last week but dropped to fourth after losing to South Carolina, its first loss of the season. The Wildcats (20-1) had one first-place vote.

Kansas fell from No. 1 to third after losing at Tennessee. Since then, the Jayhawks have won six straight, including Saturday's 81-79 overtime

victory at Kansas State.

Kansas coach Bill Self said now that conference races are under way, it will be hard for any team to hold on for long at the top.

"There could be a new No. 1 next week, and the week after," he said. "Because when you play road league games, people are going to lose. It's not a major upset. We won the national championship (in 2008) and lost three league games in five games. But I'd rather play like a No. 1-ranked team than be ranked No. 1. Hopefully, we can do that."

Michigan State was fifth, followed by West Virginia, Georgetown, Purdue and Texas, which dropped from sixth to ninth. The Longhorns (18-3) were No. 1 for two weeks before dropping to sixth last week. Their 80-77 overtime loss to Baylor on Saturday was their third in four games.

Duke and Kansas State tied for 10th.

BYU was 12th followed by Ohio State, Tennessee, New Mexico, Wisconsin, Gonzaga, Vanderbilt, Temple and Baylor.

The last five ranked teams

were Georgia Tech, Pittsburgh, Butler, Northern Iowa and Mississippi.

Butler and Northern Iowa returned to the poll this week, replacing Connecticut and UAB.

Butler (18-4) was 11th in the preseason poll but dropped out for five weeks. The Bulldogs have won 10 straight games and are 11-0 in the Horizon League.

Northern Iowa (19-2) moved into the rankings two weeks ago at No. 20 and then dropped out after losing to Wichita State and ending a 15-game winning streak. The Panthers are 10-1 in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Connecticut (13-8) fell out from 19th after losing to Providence and Marquette this week. The Huskies, who were 12th in the preseason Top 25 and reached as high as No. 10, are 2-2 since coach Jim Calhoun took an indefinite leave of absence for undisclosed medical reasons.

UAB (18-3) was 25th last week, but the Blazers dropped out following a 74-65 double-overtime loss at Texas-El Paso on Saturday. UAB was ranked

for one week earlier in the season.

The teams that comprised last season's Final Four are split in their poll success this season. Villanova and Michigan State, which both returned the bulk of their teams from last season,

are third and fifth, respectively. Neither defending champion North Carolina (13-8) nor Connecticut, which both saw their rosters gutted by graduation and players leaving early for the NBA, received a single vote this week.



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Pro Bowl

Continued from page 14

Spectators included Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and other Pro Bowl players from the Super Bowl teams. Manning and the Indianapolis Colts will face Brees and the New Orleans Saints on the same field next Sunday in the biggest game of the season.

The NFL sought to transform the Pro Bowl into a bigger game by playing it before the Super Bowl for the first time. In a one-year experiment, the league also moved the game from Honolulu, its home since 1980.

The stadium was half empty by the third quarter, perhaps partly because of the rain

and temperatures in the 60s. It was sunny and 82 in Honolulu at game time.

Did the weather dampen the players' enthusiasm for Miami?

"It's beautiful. It's paradise," NFC receiver Steve Smith said. "Too bad it's not Hawaii."

Eager to host more big events, the Dolphins have proposed adding a roof that would cover fans as part of stadium improvements that could cost \$250 million or more. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says the upgrades are needed if South Florida is to remain competitive in bidding for future Super Bowls.

Nearly 40 percent of the players originally selected

for the game didn't play. One of the AFC replacements, David Garrard, threw for 183 yards, including a 48-yard touchdown to Vincent Jackson.

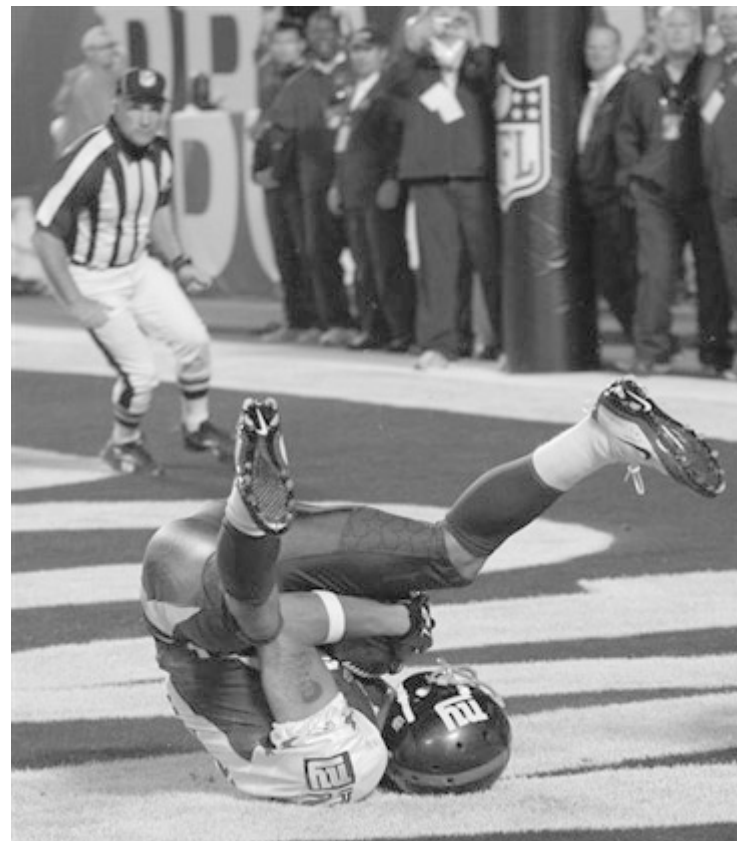
"It's so awesome," Garrard said. "One of my goals coming into the game was to just be relevant and show all the people who said, 'What is he doing in there? The Pro Bowl has dropped off a few pegs,' that I do belong."

Vincent Jackson made seven catches for 122 yards. Chad Ochocinco had a 40-yard reception but didn't do any kicking after practicing placements and punts for the AFC during the week.

"That's OK. It was fun anyway," Ochocinco said.

DeSean Jackson scored on a 7-yard pass from Rodgers and a 58-yard pass from Donovan McNabb, his regular quarterback with the Eagles.

"I'm just out here having a great time," Jackson said. "And at the same time I'm trying to put out a little



New York Giants wide receiver Steve Smith (12) catches a pass for a touch down during the first quarter of the NFL football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami.

Associated Press

effort."

There were plenty of other big plays. Joshua Cribbs caught a punt at the goal line and returned it 65 yards. A penalty negated LaMarr Woodley's 64-interception

return for a touchdown.

"I slowed up to get a little camera time," Woodley said.

The AFC totaled 517 yards and the NFC 470. Both teams threw for more than 400 yards.

Redskins linebacker London Fletcher, a 12-year veteran playing in his first Pro Bowl, found the AFC's offensive approach exhausting.

"They came out with a bunch of screens and had us running around," Fletcher said.

But there were no complaints from Fletcher's teammate on defense, first-time Pro Bowler Justin Smith of the 49ers.

"The pace is nice," Smith said. "You don't have to worry about working too hard."

The game will return to Honolulu in 2011 and 2012, but the league hasn't decided whether to hold those games before or after the Super Bowl. The Pro Bowl site for 2013 and beyond hasn't been determined.



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Napolitano: Security plan in place for Super Bowl

CURT ANDERSON

AP Legal Affairs Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE,

Florida (AP) — After touring a rain-soaked Sun Life Stadium, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Monday that preparations are in place to thwart any terrorist threat or safety problem at the Super Bowl.

"We are doing everything we can think of in preparation to make sure it is a great event," Napolitano told reporters. "I'm here today to see the operation myself. I thought it was important to get down here."

Milt Ahlerich, the NFL's vice president for security, said Napolitano's tour of the stadium in nearby Miami Gardens was the first time a Homeland Security secretary had visited a Super Bowl site before game day.

About 1,000 federal, state and local law enforcement and security personnel are working Sunday's game and events leading up to it, said James Loftus, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Even though the FBI reports no credible threat against the Super Bowl, al-Qaida and other terror groups have frequently expressed interest

in attacking a major U.S. sporting event.

"Rest assured, we're going to look out for you," Loftus said of what fans attending the game can expect. "We do this stuff week in and week out, and we're good at it."

The nerve center for security is the FBI-run Joint Operations Center, which includes representatives from 64 agencies at all levels of government, said John Gillies, agent in charge of the FBI's Miami field office. He said preparations have included intensive training and tabletop exercises involving various threat scenarios.

"There's security that the public will see, and there's security the public will not see," Gillies said.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives will have its battalion of bomb-detecting dogs on hand, many of them veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, said Hugo Barrera, chief of ATF's Miami office. He said the dogs are able to find over 19,000 separate explosives components.

"They can detect about anything," Barrera said.

Fans themselves can also



Miami police officers stand outside Sun Life Stadium before the NFL football Pro Bowl, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami.

Associated Press

play a role by reporting any suspicious activity or unattended bags, Ahlerich said. And Napolitano said there will be a number flashed on screens at the stadium where fans can send

a text message if they see anything amiss.

Other preparations include temporary flight restrictions and a 100-yard security perimeter around the stadium on game day. Fans

attending the game face a long list of prohibited items, including long-lens cameras, camcorders, backpacks, noisemakers, coolers and camera tripods.

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Federer, Serena Williams to hold on to No. 1 rankings

DENNIS PASSA

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australian Open champions Roger Federer and Serena Williams maintained their No. 1 rankings when new rankings were released Monday.

Federer, who beat Britain's Andy Murray in the Australian Open men's final in straight sets Sunday, will begin his 268th week as the ATP's No. 1 and match Jimmy Connors, currently in third place, for total number of weeks as world No. 1.

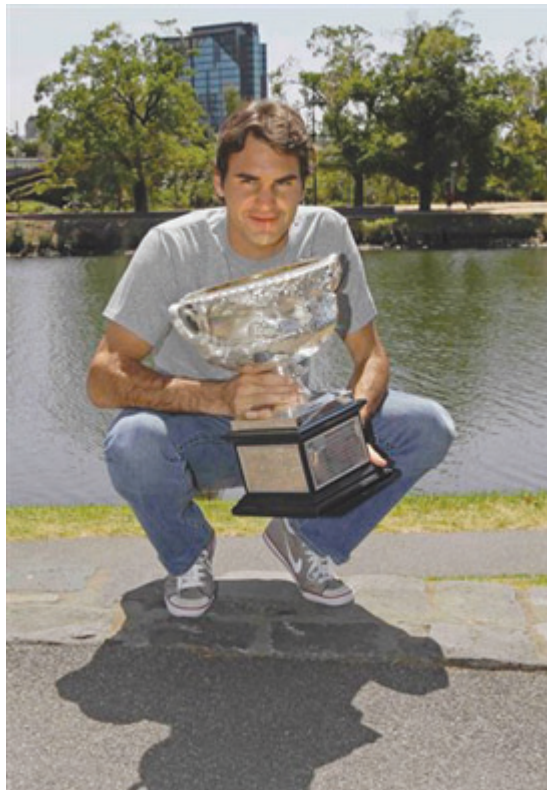
Pete Sampras leads the career list with 286 weeks at No. 1, followed by Ivan Lendl with 270.

The ATP said Novak Djokovic takes over as No. 2, Murray is third and injured Rafael Nadal drops to No. 4. It marks the first time that Nadal has dropped out of the world's top three since his debut there in June 2005.

Nadal has been cleared of a recurrence of the knee tendinitis that sidelined him for nine weeks last year. A small muscle tear sustained at the Australian Open, where he lost in the quarterfinals to Murray, will keep him out for the next month.

"It is not important for me, the ranking issue and losing a few spots — that's normal when you are not able to compete," Nadal said.

There was movement on the women's side, with Li Na becoming the first Chinese player ever to enter the top 10 when she reached a career-high No. 10 following her semifinal run here.



Switzerland's Roger Federer, the Australian Open Men's singles champion poses with the trophy in Melbourne, Australia, Monday Feb. 1, 2010. Federer won his 16th Grand Slam tennis title on Sunday night, when he beat Britain's Andy Murray in the final of the Australian Open, and Serena Williams of the United States holds the trophy during a photo call, after beating Justine Henin of Belgium, to win the Women's singles final match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010.



Justine Henin, who was unranked and playing on a wild-card entry at her first major in two years, still needs to play another tournament before she gets an official ranking.

Williams, who beat Henin in Saturday's Australian Open final, has extended her current stretch at No. 1 to 15 weeks. Official rankings released Monday by the WTA show Williams begins her 88th career week as the top-ranked player.

Dinara Safina was No. 2, followed by U.S. Open finalist Caroline Wozniacki at a career-high No. 3, French Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova at No. 4 and Australian Open quarterfinalist Venus Williams at No. 5.

Victoria Azarenka, who lost to Serena Williams in the quarterfinals, was No. 6, followed by Elena Dementieva at 7. It's the first time that Olympic gold medalist Dementieva, who lost to Henin in the second round here, has dropped out of the top 5 since September, 2008.

Jelena Jankovic was No. 8, Agnieszka Radwanska 9 and Li at 10.

Li said after her quarterfinal win over Venus Williams that her goal was the top 10, but she may have to revise her expectations higher.

"So exciting, maybe I will have a beer tonight," said Li, who lost in the semifinals to Serena Williams. "My goal this year was top 10, but it's only January, and it's come

quickly."

Henin, who quit in May 2008 while holding the No. 1 ranking, has to play three tournaments before she re-enters the rankings.

The 27-year-old Belgian lost the Brisbane International final to U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters in Henin's first tournament back. After her finals appearance at Melbourne, another good showing at her next tournament, which is expected to be in March at Indian Wells, California, could see Henin return in the top 50. Clijsters returned to the rankings at No. 19 ahead of the fourth and last event of her comeback season at Luxembourg, where she was ousted in the second round.

Bernard Hopkins, Roy Jones Jr. set for rematch

NEW YORK (AP) — Seventeen years after their first fight, Bernard Hopkins will meet Roy Jones Jr. in a rematch in April in Las Vegas.

The rematch is scheduled for April 3 at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas.

The 45-year-old Hopkins (50-5-1, 32 KOs) is a former middleweight and light heavyweight champion. He defeated Enrique Ornelas by unanimous decision in a light heavyweight bout in Philadelphia in December.

"A rematch with Roy has been in the back of my mind for a long time and it's finally going to happen," Hopkins said in Monday's release announcing the bout. "I have accomplished a lot in my career since that night in Washington, D.C., in 1993, and I am going to end this thing between me and Roy once and for all."

The 41-year-old Jones (54-6, 40 KOs) is coming off a loss to Australian Danny Green in the first round, also in December.

On May 22, 1993, in Washington, D.C., Hopkins lost a unanimous decision to Jones for the vacant IBF middleweight crown.

"We're giving the fans what they want to see. They deserve this fight and why not supply the fans with what they demand?" Jones said.



On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Winners of the annual
Calypso and Road
March Festival

**Carnaval 56
makes history
by crowning
two queens!**



SAN NICOLAS- In the week hours of the morning, after a long night of music, the judges announced the winners of Aruba's Calypso and Road March Festival 2010, making carnival history. For the first time in 56 years, two women won the crowns, and the titles of Roadmarch Queen and Calypso Queen.

Continued on page 6

Aruba welcomes KLM back



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) welcomed KLM back on its first flight from Amsterdam to Aruba on Monday, February 1, 2010 with a traditional water canon salute. With the return of this service, KLM will connect passengers to and from Aruba via Curacao with Holland.

Continued on page 4

The island of Aruba has been added to the 2010 IBA World Tour



Bodyboarding Aruba and IBA International welcome all bodyboarders to the Tropical Island of Aruba for the first ever event, The Arubian Aruwak Pro 2010!

This event will be from the 15th to the 20th of June.

The locals in Aruba are excited with this extraordinary event since bodyboarding is booming on the island and

to see the world's best rip in Arubian Waters will be amazing.

Aruba has its fair share of consistent waves like: Dos Playa, Andicuri, Wariruri, Urirama but the Arubian Aruwak Pro 2010 will be held at Aruba's Launching Machine Shark Bay!

Shark Bay is a very unique wave, it's a sand bar that

provides a lot of wedges but with perfect peaks. It barrels 90% of the time and it's a hollow and very powerful wave. But on top of all that it's really known for it's incredible launching power!

Even on a 6ft day shark bay can provide launches to about

2 meters high so this is a perfect spot for bodyboarding! Aruba is really looking forward to the Arubian Aruwak Pro and hopes to get all the world's best riders to attend in June to compete in the newest addition to the IBA World Tour.

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day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

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The tastefully arranged store is signature Jodi Tobman, the Boston-born retailer at the helm of Salamander Holdings family of fun stores, The Juggling Fish, The Coconut Trading Co., T.H. Palm & Company & The Lazy Lizard. You will find a great selection of children's gifts here. In fact an entire store section is dedicated to gifts

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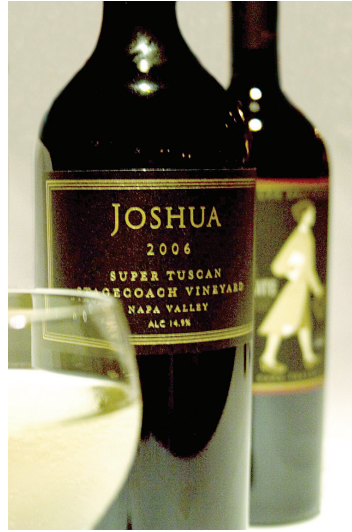
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soft opening presentation, no service charge will be added to your bill, tipping is at your discretion. Discover where the islanders eat when they want a memorable evening with good company accompanied by the finest of steaks and wines, in delightful surroundings.

Conveniently located in the Wilhelmina Straat. An easy walk from the Oranjestad bus terminal, Cooks Restaurant awaits you! Open from Tuesdays thru Saturdays from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Restaurant, back by popular demand after refining their decor. Cooks offers a tempting menu of the finest quality beef and intriguing regional dishes, at very reasonable prices. It is a favorite dining spot with islanders, and those in the know. Compliment



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Aruba welcomes KLM back



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) welcomed KLM back on its first flight from Amsterdam to Aruba on Monday, February 1, 2010 with a traditional water canon salute. With the return of this service, KLM will connect passengers to and from Aruba via Curacao with Holland.

KLM uses B747 aircraft on the route and offers 42 seats in business class and 333 seats in economy class. AAA together with its tourism partners ATA and AHATA will ensure the success and enhancement of this service. Holland is a very popular destination for the Arubians who live in Holland, but also to those living in Aruba and in the Caribbean.

“We’re very happy to see KLM back at the airport” said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA, “after many meetings we’re very happy that KLM believes in the destination and has decided to fly again to Aruba. Together with our partners at ATA and AHATA we are committed to work together with KLM in securing the success of the service.”



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Watch the Superbowl with your bare toes in the sand

HADICURARI - MooMba Beach is the place to watch the upcoming Superbowl. Located between the Marriott Ocean Club and the Holiday Inn Hotel, the beach bar and restaurant are already humming with preparations for the event. Two of the largest screens on Aruba will be installed on the beach so that you can watch the game with your bare toes in the sand. Food and beer specials see to it that you won’t be hungry or thirsty. Expect an extra bar as well as a BBQ on the beach.

The New Orleans Saints and the Indiana Colts will be battling it out with full audio. DJ Diablo is going to play his music all night long and besides the two majestic screens on the beach there will be four flatscreen televisions inside the bar so that everyone can have a fantastic view.

To make reservations for the tables on the beach, surf to moombabeach@arubawineanddine.com so that you know you will have the best place on the island. The excitement is building...



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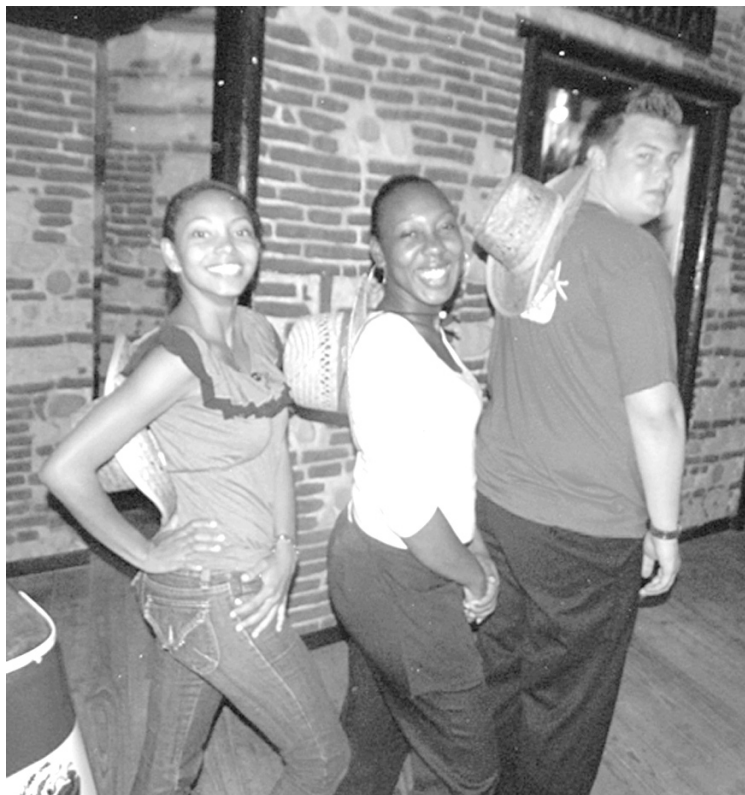
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Wednesday Night

Mexican Buffet at MooMba Beach is 'aaiaiaia' good



HADICURARI - It is not just the colorful array of salads, the sumptuous choices in meat and chicken dishes at MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant that make it a 'no brainer' when debating where to go for dinner on Wednesdays. Its Mexican buffet is just superb, very affordable and a lot of fun. You can eat your fill of personally made fajitas, Mexican salads, beans and rice, stuffed jalapeños and mucho, mucho mas. The décor is Mexican, complete with giant hats and blankets, the music is of course Mariachi. Your heartstrings will tremble as the mariachi band plays its soulful songs. Aiaiaiaaai.



The Mexican buffet at MooMba Beach Bar & Restaurant (between the Marriott Resort and the Holiday Inn hotel) starts at 6 pm; the mariachi band plays at 7. So don't forget to come down on Wednesdays for the terrific Mexican 'ambiente' and enjoy!



Winners of the annual Calypso and Road March Festival

Carnaval 56 makes history by crowning two queens!



SAN NICOLAS- In the week hours of the morning, after a long night of music, the judges announced the winners of Aruba's Calypso and Road March Festival 2010, making carnival history. For the first time in 56 years, two women won the crowns, and the titles of Roadmarch Queen and Calypso Queen.

These outstanding performers were Diana Emerencia, better known as "Lady Eyes," a lead singer with the popular band Oreo and Viviana Hooker, on stage as "Lady V." Only one other woman precedes Lady Eyes as Roadmarch Queen; Ras Linda took the title 29 years ago, and no other woman has claimed it since. Two other women, "Singing J" and "Lady K" have previously worn the Calypso crown before "Lady V"

Two happy ladies shared the spotlight with Tecla Kelly-Hernandez, the President of the Stichting Arubaanse Carnival, SAC, Carnival's ruling body, as she placed the traditional crowns upon their heads. The winning Calypso song was titled "Where we Belong," with band NBO playing back-up and this year's official road march is titled "Sin Donjo," (No one owns me.) Youth Extreme was named the best dressed and most professional band, and Mighty Campo won best costume in an individual singer.



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	matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show: 11:30	
R LEGION	daily: 4:00	6:15	8:30	NEW
	matinee: 1:30		late show: 11:00	
PG-13 AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:30	7:45	late show: 11:00	
	matinee: 1:15			
PG OLD DOGS	daily: 4:15	6:15	8:15	
	matinee: 12:15	2:15	late show: 12:15	
R UP IN THE AIR	daily: 6:00	8:45	late show: 11:15	
	matinee:			
PG TOOTH FAIRY	daily: 4:15	6:30	9:00	
	matinee: 1:45		late show: 11:15	
PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00			
	matinee: 12:00	2:00	late show:	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13 INVICTUS	daily: 5:30	8:15	late show: 11:00	NEW
	matinee: 2:30			
PG ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	daily: 4:00	6:00	late show:	
	matinee: 12:00	2:00		
PG-13 IT'S COMPLICATED	daily: 6:45	9:15	late show: 11:45	
	matinee:			
PG-13 NINE	daily: 6:00	8:30	late show: 11:00	
	matinee: 1:00	3:30		
G THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 4:30		late show:	
	matinee: 12:00	2:15		
PG-13 SHERLOCK HOLMES	daily: 5:30	8:30	late show: 11:30	
	matinee: 2:30			
R THE BOOK OF ELI	daily: 6:00	8:45	late show: 11:45	
	matinee: 12:30	3:15		
PG-13 AVATAR 3D	daily: 4:45	8:00	late show: 11:15	
	matinee: 1:30			

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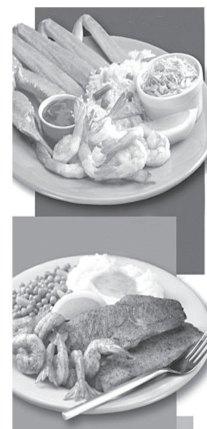
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Live! theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

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I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new

england mystery writer Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show

Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)

Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld

Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm

Tickets: at the door

Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults

Group Sales: 561-1090

website: www.MagicLive.com

Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

SEE MAGIC, comedy and "seemingly impossible feats, get ready to marvel at the all new, MAGIC! theater-of-illusions show starring ADAM STEINFELD, opens DECEMBER, 25, nightly 9PM at the WESTIN, aruba. MAGIC LIVE! theater-of-illusions show...at the WESTIN-Aruba, 9pm nightly, starring AdamSteinfeld. □



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Catch your own dinner

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“Parhanan” opens at the Westin Gallery



PALM BEACH - Noted island artist Eefje van der Straten van Twillert has joined forces with her brother Douwe for the new exposition at the Westin Art Gallery, which opened on Saturday, January 30. Their inspiration is the title, indigenous birds of Aruba, in particular the Shoco, or American Burrowing Owl.

Douwe's works dominate this new collection; Eefje has contributed only six of the twenty pieces on display. The sibling's contrasting styles contributes diversity to the collection; Douwe's pastel colored acrylics on paper are strongly offset by Eefje's bold use of color and contrast. Eefje is a master at working

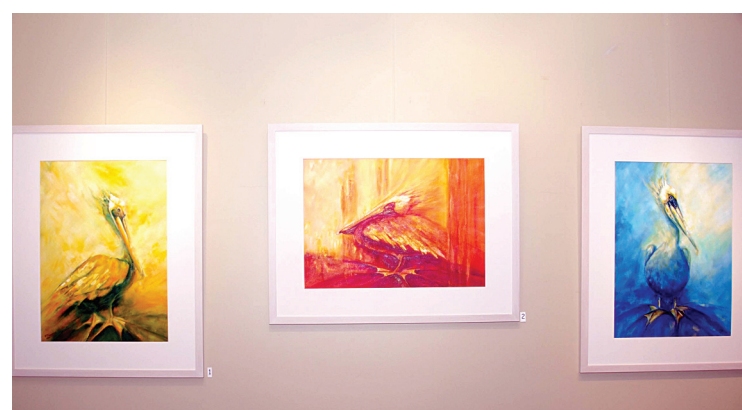


with light and dark to give her paintings a distinctly ethereal quality.

A photo of a shoco demonstrates the inspiration for the riveting eyes Douwe uses as a focus point in many of his paintings. He has also employed bright red to contrast with his usual pastel shades, giving a number of the pieces a dramatic effect. Ever-present in his works is the usually subtle, but sometime dominate use of slanting rooftops; a signature of his style.

Eefje chose the brown pelicans commonly seen along the shore as her subject matter, plus two works dedicated to the ancient Amerindian pictographs of birds to be found in island caves. Her use of varying chromatics demonstrates how different colors can completely change the perception and mood of a painting to dramatic effect.

Dan Tanner, newly installed Director of Operations for the Westin Aruba Resort was proud to welcome those attending the opening, and commented that he found the



collection “very intriguing.” “I think it commendable that a Dutch artist such as Douwe brings his work to Aruba, along with focusing on a subject particular to Aruba; it gives the collection a special

meaning for islanders.” “Parhanan” will be on display and for sale until the end of March. The collection can be viewed seven days a week in the Westin Aruba Resort lobby.

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with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the

zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond. In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections. Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

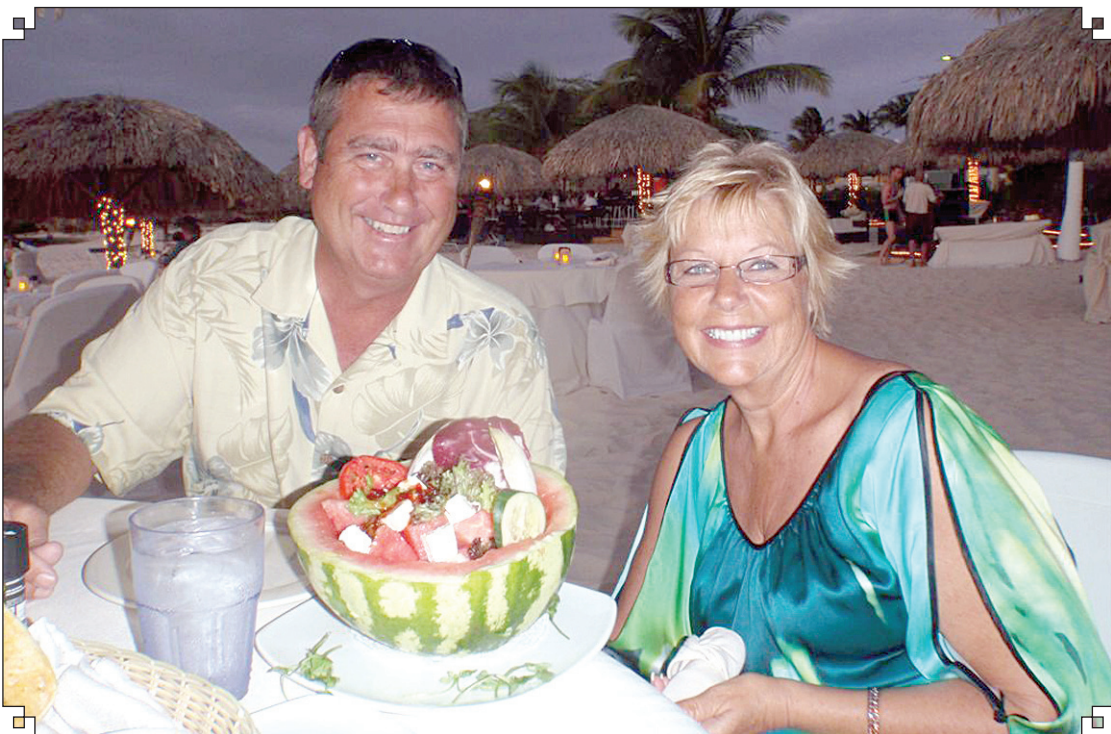
Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday.



Special guests enjoy Aruba's hospitality



PALM BEACH - Kent and Kim Gerber are here on Aruba for their 18th time. They brought their friends along for their first trip to Aruba. David and Wilma Kieser who have 6 children and 21 grandchildren. They are from Illinois and live in Florida in the winter and decided to jet off to Aruba to enjoy One Happy Island. They are having a blast on the Island and hope to get there children and grandchildren over to Aruba.



Flaws in health sector raised at PMIA lecture



PHILIPSBURG--The need for more medical specialists in St. Maarten, staff shortages at St. Maarten Medical Center (SMMC) and the black market sale of medicinal products on the streets were some of the issues raised during the Philipsburg Mutual Improvement Association's (PMIA's) eight annual Lionel Bernard Scott Lecture Thursday evening. Panellists agreed that a clear vision was needed for health care, as St. Maarten moves towards her new status as country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Health Commissioner Hyacinth Richardson, who addressed the audience at the end of the over three-hour long lively discussion, said the issues raised had the attention of government and had his concern.

Medical specialists
Some members of the three-man panel spoke of the chronic shortage of medical specialists in St. Maarten, as well as the impending crisis in the delivery of women's health care, when two of the three existing gynaecologists stop operating by year end. Gynaecologist Dr. Michel Petit, one of the panellists, will be retiring this year, while Dr. Tjon Kon Fat is expected to leave this year. This will mean that gynaecologist/obstetrician Dr. Randall Friday will be the sole gynaecologist to serve St. Maarten along with midwife Regina Janga. The commissioner said the pending shortage of gynaecologist is being addressed, and another gynaecologist is expected to be recruited in a few months. He said, also, that government will be asking Dr. Tjon Kon Fat and Dr. Petit to remain a bit longer. Panellist Dr. Glen Bryson, who runs his own clinic in Dutch Quarter and who has been operating as a general practitioner in St. Maarten for the past two decades, was very frank in his opening remarks. He painted a

grim picture of the situation as it related to the delivery of medical care. He said health care needed more attention. Authorities who should be addressing the issues in health care, Bryson noted, appeared to be "happy," "complacent" and satisfied with the status quo. Bryson argued that while there are about 20 general practitioners operating here, the island territory "desperately needed" more: an eye specialist, urologist, neurologist, cardiologist, oncologist, gynaecologist, surgeon and midwives. However, one of the medical doctors at American University of the Caribbean (AUC) School of Medicine, who said he attended the session to get an idea of the health care system on island, questioned whether it was feasible for St. Maarten to have a medical specialist in every area. He questioned whether this was justifiable given the island's population. He also queried whether it would not be

more practical and feasible for the French and Dutch sides to cooperate and make use of each other's medical practitioners and services. Panellists and moderator Eugene Holiday said the issue is a political one. While the French and Dutch sides have close ties historically, each side is governed by different laws. Panellists also spoke of the difficulties encountered in attracting medical specialists to St. Maarten. Alluding to the difficulties encountered by Dr. Friday when he returned to St. Maarten to operate, Petit said certain issues were making it less attractive to start up here. Richardson said he had been assured by SMMC General Director Dr. George Scot that medical specialists would be recruited for St. Maarten. He said Scot had indicated that this will be done in collaboration with a medical institution in the Netherlands. "I can tell you that we will be able to bring

the specialists here," said the commissioner.

Care at SMMC
The working environment at SMMC was one of the issues that drew much reaction from the audience.

While Petit was critical of the working environment at SMMC and said the service level at SMMC had dropped over the years, panellist Dr. Felix Holiday was in defence of SMMC, saying that the service is at an international level.

Petit said the hospital is severely short staffed which he said has a direct effect on the delivery of quality care. He said SMMC, in its attempts to lower its cost for profitability, is sacrificing care. He said he has seen the level of service at SMMC plummet over his 30 years operating in St. Maarten and there was a dire need for more staff. He said, for example, there were only two nurses assigned to one ward and if one of them went on vacation, it was a strenuous task on the other.

Touching on the issue of salaries, he said medical professionals abroad were also earning much more than at SMMC.

Orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Jack Bocher, a member of the audience, alluded to one case in which one person had been trained abroad in orthopaedic care, but subsequently left to work elsewhere where the pay was much higher.

Holiday stood up for the care at SMMC, arguing that SMMC treats many tourists, in addition to the local populace, and its service was at an international level. He said also that many cruise lines come to St. Maarten because the

SMMC is able to deliver quality care.

Taking a jab at Petit's arguments, Dr. Bocher said the SMMC should not be ridiculed because of someone's personal issues with Scot, an assertion that Petit dismissed.

Street sale

In his very candid presentation, Dr. Bryson spoke about the sale of drugs on the streets. He said antibiotics, birth control pills, and hormonal pills can all be purchased on the streets.

He also alluded to the wide use of detoxifiers and intestinal cleansers which he says people spend a lot of money for to "purge out" but which he said has little medicinal benefits.

Bryson said over the years the focus has been placed on tourism while health care has been neglected. "Health care needs to be developed," he told the capacity crowd.

Other issues raised at the forum include the revamping of the medical insurance system and the need for a vision for health care. One panellist also said that medical professionals should be included in the discussions for the National Health Insurance System (NHIS) being developed for Country St. Maarten.

Mental health

In response to statements by Mental Health Foundation (MHF) President Eileen Healy about the lack of attention to the MHF and the foundation's need for land to develop and offer better services, Richardson said land has already been identified for the foundation in the vicinity of the St. Maarten Park (zoo).



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Editorial - Unlikely

By Paul de Windt

At first glance the reported preference of PAR leader and current Prime Minister Emily de Jongh-Elhage for a small Antillean Cabinet with just a few ministers and no state secretaries makes sense in light of the constitutional changes and the next Central Government's short life span until new relations within the Dutch Kingdom take effect on 10-10-10. After all, the intention is to dismantle the Netherlands Antilles and transfer its tasks to the future countries St. Maarten and Curaçao in the meantime, for which reason their respective Island Governments will be expanded as well.

However, one can't help but wonder how realistic the idea of a small cabinet is. The probable incoming federal coalition will consist of six parties – two from Curaçao and one each from the four other islands – that all naturally will want to be represented somehow in the Central Government.

Also the number of seats per party makes a cabinet of just a few ministers and no state secretaries difficult, to say the least. If the parties with only one seat PNP of Curaçao, WIPM of Saba and the DP-Statia can't have a state secretary, they are likely to want a minister.

At the same time, even if UPB of Bonaire gets only a minister (it currently also has a state secretary) with two seats, surely the National Alliance (NA) of St. Maarten would qualify for more than that with three seats. As such, the NA should in any case maintain the minister and state secretary (and acting plenipotentiary minister in The Hague) it now has with two seats or even get two ministers.

Also, because PAR with its six seats will probably opt to maintain its current three ministers, including the prime minister, and considering that NA went from two to three seats, the party from St. Maarten can justifiably claim two ministers, or one and at least two state secretaries. So if there are to be no state secretaries, it stands to reason that more ministers will be required.

All in all, one doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to conclude that downsizing the cabinet in any meaningful way under the circumstances will not be easy, while several of the intended coalition parties have already rejected the idea of a "business cabinet" because they believe the politicians who have guided the entire process of constitutional change should complete it. Again, a much smaller Central Government certainly sounds good, but most probably is not politically feasible.

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Perú hará campaña internacional para recuperar el turismo

LIMA (Reuters) - Perú dijo el lunes que realizará una campaña mundial para promover el regreso de turistas a la ciudadela inca Machu Picchu, que ha sufrido un bajón de visitas después de que fuertes lluvias cortaran la única vía de acceso, lo que dejó varados a miles de turistas la semana pasada.

El ministro de Comercio Exterior y Turismo, Martín Pérez, dijo que la campaña internacional y local se realizará junto con las empresas operadoras de turismo y otras ligadas al sector, para evitar cancelaciones y cumplir la meta de recibir 2,2 millones de visitantes extranjeros este año.

La semana pasada más de 4.000 personas fueron rescatadas de la localidad de Aguas Calientes, cerca de Machu Picchu, a unos 2.450 metros sobre el nivel del mar y 1.100 kilómetros al sureste de Lima, en una operación sin precedentes en el país para evacuar a turistas atrapados por las fuertes lluvias.

Machu Picchu, declarado como Patrimonio de la

Humanidad y como una de las siete nuevas maravillas del mundo, es el ícono del turismo en Perú y un gran imán para el negocio del sector.

La empresa local operadora del ferrocarril que llega a Machu Picchu, PerúRail, estima que despejar las vías del tren bloqueadas por derrumbes de lodo y piedras que cayeron por las lluvias, tomaría al menos siete semanas.

“Iniciaremos una campaña intensa tanto en el interior del país como en el extranjero para promover el regreso de turistas al Cusco y a la ciudad inca de Machu Picchu, afectada durante la última semana por un fuerte temporal”, dijo Pérez a la agencia estatal de noticias Andina.

Autoridades del Cusco han adelantado que, como en este momento no hay acceso a la ciudadela inca de Machu Picchu, los operadores promoverán otros atractivos turísticos como la fortaleza de piedra de Sacsayhuamán, el palacio inca Coricancha y monumentos incas como Písac y Moray.

“Esta es una oportunidad



Vista aérea de las ruinas de la ciudad de Machu Picchu durante un vuelo de observación de zonas inundadas en Cuzco, Perú, ene 29 2010. REUTERS/Oscar Farje/Government Palace/Handout

también para revalorar el destino Cusco en su conjunto. Estamos seguros que la gente seguirá llegando a esta ciudad porque sólo ir al Cusco justifica un viaje”, dijo el presidente regional del Cusco, Hugo Gonzáles.

El Gobierno peruano ha afirmado que el fuerte temporal

ha dejado más de 23.500 damnificados, 4.600 viviendas dañadas o destruidas, 16.000 hectáreas de cultivo afectadas y nueve puentes “seriamente” afectados.

Las lluvias, frecuentes en los Andes peruanos durante el período de verano en la costa del Pacífico, se han agudizado

debido al fenómeno climático de El Niño, que según expertos durará hasta el comienzo del verano boreal del 2010.

El fenómeno de El Niño es un anormal calentamiento de las aguas en la parte ecuatorial del Océano Pacífico, que perturba con lluvias y sequías los patrones climáticos globales.

Brasil busca salida para reconocer Gobierno Honduras

BRASILIA (Reuters) - Brasil busca una salida para reconocer al nuevo Gobierno de Honduras, luego de figurar como protagonista en la crisis política del país centroamericano, y está dispuesto a acompañar a los países de la región y retomar el diálogo con Tegucigalpa.

El objetivo es encontrar un espacio y huir del potencial aislamiento. Incluso ya hay una oportunidad a la vista: la reunión en México entre países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, a fines de febrero, donde se espera una señal clara de la región favorable a Porfirio “Pepe” Lobo, elegido por las manos del Gobierno de facto en noviembre pasado.

Por lo menos cuatro miembros de ese grupo - Colombia, Panamá, Perú, Guatemala y Costa Rica- reconocieron la legitimidad del recién elegido jefe de Estado. “Evidentemente, estamos evaluando la situación y esperando las iniciativas del nuevo Gobierno”, dijo a Reuters Marco Aurélio García, asesor de asuntos

internacionales del presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

“Como tomamos decisiones colectivas en ese momento (después del golpe), obviamente queremos analizar (esa hipótesis conjuntamente)”, añadió.

Manuel Zelaya, derrocado el 28 de junio del año pasado, buscó refugio en la embajada brasileña en Honduras y abandonó esa representación diplomática el miércoles, el mismo día en que Lobo asumió el poder.

Funcionarios de Honduras impidieron el viernes el ingreso al país de la cónsul brasileña en Tegucigalpa, por lo que fue destituido de inmediato el director de Migración. Tras el incidente Honduras pidió disculpas a Brasil, dijo Africo Madrid, ministro de Gobernación y Justicia de Honduras.

“Es un error grave que pone en aprietos la posición internacional de Honduras que ha abierto sus puertas al mundo”, agregó.

Rusia y Venezuela se asocian para explotación crudo

MOSCU (Reuters) - Un consorcio de firmas rusas y la petrolera estatal de Venezuela, PDVSA, acordaron el lunes una asociación para explotar el campo de petróleo Junín 6 en el faja del Orinoco, que el país sudamericano afirma posee las mayores reservas mundiales de hidrocarburos.

El ministro de Energía ruso, Sergei Shmatko, explicó a periodistas el lunes que las inversiones podrían superar los 10.000 millones de dólares y la producción futura se estimó en 450.000 barriles por día. Rusia ha dicho previamente que la exploración del campo petrolero Junín 6 podría requerir de 30.000 millones de dólares de inversión, mientras PDVSA ha dicho que el campo posee potencial para producir 200.000 barriles por día.

“Después de que el acuerdo de hoy sea ratificado por el Parlamento de Venezuela, el consorcio de firmas rusas transferirá una prima por 600 millones de dólares”, dijo el primer ministro ruso, Vladimir Putin, quien presidió la ceremonia de la firma. Las compañías rusas que participan del proyecto incluyen a Rosneft, Gazprom, LUKOIL, TNK-BP y Surgutneftegaz.

Presidente Porfirio Lobo:

Honduras no integrará Alba por atacar a EEUU

TEGUCIGALPA (AP) - El presidente Porfirio Lobo dijo que no reintegrará a Honduras a la Alianza Bolivariana para las Américas (Alba), a la que se adhirió en agosto de 2008 el derrocado mandatario Manuel Zelaya, porque esa organización está en contra de Estados Unidos.

“Es imposible ser parte de una alianza que tiene como objetivo atacar a Estados Unidos. Eso para mí está fuera de contexto y no me interesa”, añadió.

“Buscamos la amistad de todos los países que respetamos como tales, pero exigimos que nos respeten. No tengo el menor interés en la Alba porque no seré parte de ninguna organización que vaya en contra de Estados Unidos”, dijo Lobo en una entrevista la noche del domingo al canal 3 de la televisión local.

Destacó que más de 1,3 millón de hondureños residen en Estados Unidos, en su

mayoría sin documentos.

“En Estados Unidos hay muchos hondureños que envían sus remesas (alrededor de 2.500 millones de dólares anuales) a sus familias en Honduras. Y esa nación es el principal destino de nuestras exportaciones y con ella hay buenas relaciones”, subrayó.

El 26 de enero, el entonces presidente de facto Roberto Micheletti sancionó el decreto legislativo que desligó a Honduras de Alba.

Respecto a la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA), que expulsó a Honduras por el golpe de Estado que el 28 de junio de 2009 provocó la caída de Zelaya, Lobo aseguró que “nuestro pueblo sufre y depende de la ayuda internacional para sobrevivir”.

Afirmó que “la cosa es simple: Honduras necesita estar en paz con la OEA, la comunidad internacional y los organismos financieros

como el Fondo Monetario Internacional... y ese es el esfuerzo que hacemos por el bienestar de la patria”.

Dijo que “para combatir la pobreza insultante requerimos abrir las puertas internacionales... y ya se están abriendo. Y lo correcto para Honduras hoy es normalizar las relaciones internacionales, que es un tema de interés nacional”.

El 70% de los 7,5 millones de hondureños vive en la pobreza.

Lobo, que asumió el 27 de enero para una gestión de cuatro años, informó que esta semana su gobierno integrará la comisión de la verdad que estableció el Acuerdo Tegucigalpa-San José, firmado el 30 de octubre por Zelaya y Micheletti con el fin de superar la crisis política hondureña. El plan contó con el aval de Washington, la OEA y la mediación del presidente costarricense Oscar Arias.



El presidente de Honduras, Porfirio Lobo, izquierda, ofrece una conferencia de prensa junto al embajador estadounidense Hugo Llorens, el viernes 29 de enero del 2010 en Tegucigalpa. (AP foto/ Esteban Félix)

Llegan observadores internacionales a elecciones en Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (AP) - Un contingente de 150 observadores internacionales de diversas organizaciones fueron acreditados por el Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones (TSE) para las elecciones del domingo en Costa Rica, informó el lunes el presidente de esa entidad Antonio Sobrado. “Tenemos dos grupos numerosos, 40 personas de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) y 78 de la Universidad para la Paz”, detalló Sobrado, aunque mencionó que también acudirán miembros de otros organismos electorales de América, tres funcionarios japoneses y un delegado de la Universidad José Simeón Cañas de El Salvador, entre otros.

Parte de la delegación de la OEA, encabezada por la ex canciller colombiana María Emma Mejía, tuvo el lunes un encuentro privado con el presidente Oscar Arias. “Creo que América Latina tiene mucho que aprender de un país como Costa Rica, de su situación política,

de su solidez democrática. De verdad, queremos admirar el proceso que se lleva aquí. Esperamos que se ratifique una vez más su democracia”, comentó Mejía, según un comunicado distribuido por Presidencia.

Indicó que el grupo cuenta con personas de toda América así como algunos observadores de otras naciones fuera del continente.

Mientras los observadores se preparan para su labor de supervisión, los candidatos mantienen su campaña por atraer más votos. La oficialista Laura Chinchilla, que figura como favorita en los sondeos pero no muy lejos del 40% mínimo para evitar una segunda vuelta, inició el lunes con una entrevista en una emisora católica; el candidato Ottón Solís del partido Acción Ciudadana y tercero en las encuestas participó en una jornada de oración y Otto Guevara del Movimiento Libertario atendió a corresponsales de prensa extranjera.

Volcán Tungurahua incrementa actividad en Ecuador

QUITO (AP) - El volcán Tungurahua en los Andes Centrales de Ecuador registra una actividad creciente con la expulsión de abundante ceniza y fuertes explosiones, por lo que no se puede descartar una fuerte erupción, dijo el lunes el director del Instituto Geofísico, Hugo Yépez.

Consultado si se avecina una fuerte erupción, afirmó en radio Sonorama que “la posibilidad de que eso se repita no la podemos descartar; estamos en una actividad creciente... hay una nueva inyección de magma lo que genera más gases, más calor y esos gases generan las explosiones y van abriendo el sistema (la caldera)”.

Yépez comentó que en el Tungurahua “es muy clara la actividad que se la ve y se la oye, estamos hablando de explosiones muy fuertes que hacen vibrar las ventanas, el piso y los techos de la viviendas, hemos tenido reportes de vidrios que se trizaron (rompieron)”.

Manifestó que el volcán también genera “mucho ceniza”, lo que provoca “un impacto (negativo) sobre la agricultura y la ganadería, sobre las fuentes de agua” en al menos tres provincias.

Añadió que las estimaciones de los técnicos dan cuenta que alrededor de un millón de metros cúbicos de ceniza han caído en los alrededores de ese coloso en la última semana. Hasta el momento no se ha registrado víctimas mortales ni desplazados. El volcán tiene 5.023 metros de altura sobre el nivel del mar y queda a 135 kilómetros al sureste de Quito.

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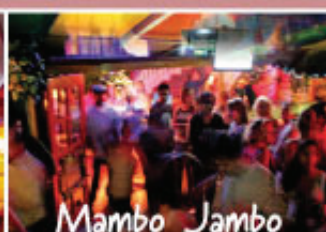
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